

# NWS Decision Support

Service Improvements

Pat Vesper

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

WFO Midland, Texas

# **National Weather Service Mission**

**“To provide weather and flood warnings, public forecasts and advisories for all the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas, primarily for the protection of life and property.”**

# NWS Midland Community Support

We strive to build partnerships...

- Emergency Managers
- Fire Departments
- Police Departments
- Sheriff's Offices
- Amateur Radio Clubs
- Elected Officials
- State and local agencies
- Media
- Local Citizens



# NWS Midland Community Support

Provide onsite incident support

Give impact briefings to assist our partners



Whites City, New Mexico hail storm  
Image courtesy of Wendell Malone,  
Eddy/Culberson Area Skywarn Coordinator

# NWS Midland Decision Support

## Tactical Briefings

- Short term briefing – normally the same day as the weather event
- Very detailed information
- Conveys a *HIGH* confidence of a *HIGH* impact event
- Used to make immediate decisions

## Strategic Briefings

- Longer term briefing – normally provided in the 1-4 day time period
- Less detailed information
- Conveys a *LOW* or *MODERATE* confidence... or an increasing trend in confidence of a *HIGH* impact event
- Used for planning purposes – longer term decisions

# **NWS Midland Decision Support**

**Tactical Briefings are best provided...**

- **Face-to-Face**
- **NWSChat**



# **NWS Midland Decision Support**

**Strategic Briefings are best provided...**

- **Webinars, Go-To Meetings**
- **Conference calls**
- **[Weather.gov/Midland](https://www.weather.gov/midland)**

# **NWS Midland Decision Support**

Specifically for your needs...

- **Strategic briefings are probable.**
- **Tactical briefings are likely.**
- **NWSChat likely used more often**



# What is NWSChat?

- NWSChat is a special chat software program that is loaded on a PC.
- It's maintained by the NWS.
- It's designed with the specific goal of helping our partners.

# NWSChat – an important change



- Started as IEMChat (2006)
- Transitioned to SRHChat (2008)
- Became NWSChat this year

- Provides an opportunity for EMs, media, Skywarn coordinators, and other partners to exchange information with NWS forecasters during events.
- Displays all event products issued by WFO Midland, SPC, and more

# How is NWSChat different?

- NWSChat allows for access to NWS forecasters - 24 hours a day.
- People not properly using NWSChat are removed from the system.

# How is NWSChat different?

- NWSChat allows for the exchange of weather information that can be used for tactical operations.
- Shows potential for future partner interaction (i.e. ISDs, TXDot, MACC, etc)

# NWSChat

mafchat@conference.nwschat.weather.gov

Conversation Options Send To

mafchat@conference.nwschat.weather.gov

mafchat@conference.nwschat.weather.gov

(5:26:48 PM) nwsbot: MAF [issues High Wind Warning](#) for Guadalupe Mountains [TX] till 12:00 AM CST

(5:26:48 PM) nwsbot: MAF [continues High Wind Watch](#) valid at Feb 10, 9:00 AM CST for Guadalupe Mountains [TX] till Feb 11, 12:00 AM CST

(5:26:48 PM) nwsbot: MAF [continues High Wind Watch](#) valid at Feb 10, 9:00 AM CST for Marfa Plateau, Van Horn and Highway 54 Corridor [TX] till Feb 10, 9:00 PM CST

(5:26:48 PM) nwsbot: MAF [continues High Wind Watch](#) valid at Feb 10, 9:00 AM CST for Guadalupe Mountains of Eddy County [NM] and Davis/Apache Mountains Area [TX] till Feb 11, 12:00 AM CST

(5:26:48 PM) nwsbot: MAF [continues High Wind Watch](#) valid at Feb 10, 12:00 PM CST for Eddy County Plains, Northern Lea County, Central Lea County, Southern Lea County [NM] and Andrews, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos, Upton, Ward, Winkler [TX] till Feb 10, 9:00 PM CST

(5:30:17 PM) ttu\_westtexasmesonet [academia-wes.burgett@nwschat.weather.gov/Office] entered the room.

(5:32:27 PM) ttu\_westtexasmesonet: Sounding from Reese Center (12W of Lubbock): [WTM 232 2/8 Sounding](#). Balloon launched at 2210Z. Thanks. Wes....TTU

(5:43:21 PM) skywarn-clint.lannom [skywarn-clint.lannom@nwschat.weather.gov/W5MAF] entered the room.

(5:46:35 PM) ttu\_westtexasmesonet left the room.

(5:57:52 PM) NW9WX-Tom: Tom here....

(5:58:21 PM) NW9WX-Tom: viewer in presidio reporting est. 45 to 50 mph winds with some trees bending over ATTM

(6:00:01 PM) nwsbot: ----- Feb 09, 2009 [GMT] -----

(6:00:19 PM) nwsbot: MAF issues [SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ALERT](#) for Eddy County Plains, Northern Lea County, Central Lea County, Southern Lea County [NM] and Andrews, Gaines, Loving, Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos, Ward, Winkler [TX] till 6:45 PM CST

(6:00:49 PM) NWS Midland 21 Cody: Thanks for the report, Tom.

(6:06:57 PM) media-matt.ernst left the room.

(6:18:16 PM) EddyEm2-skywarn.coordinator [em-wendell.malone@nwschat.weather.gov/Home] entered the room.

(6:41:21 PM) NWS IMET Granbury - Greg left the room.

(6:44:05 PM) NWS IMET Granbury - Greg [nws-gregory.murdoch@nwschat.weather.gov/3f76d93] entered the room.

(6:56:37 PM) nwsbot: MAF issues [SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ALERT](#) for Northern Lea County, Central Lea County, Southern Lea County [NM] and Andrews, Crane, Davis/Apache Mountains Area, Ector, Gaines, Loving, Pecos, Reeves County and Upper Trans Pecos, Ward, Winkler [TX] till 7:30 PM CST

(6:58:11 PM) nwsbot: FORT STOCKTON, TX (FST) ASOS (Caution: Maintenance Check Indicator) reports gust of 56.0 knots from W @ 0056Z

KFST 090056Z AUTO 27034G56KT 7SM SQ SCT034 SCT120 16/07 A2981 RMK AO2 PK WND 26056/0056 WSHFT 0040 LTG DSNT SW-N \$

(7:03:40 PM) nwsbot: Storm Prediction Center issues [Mesoscale Discussion #0070](#) [View text](#)

(7:03:59 PM) nwsbot: MAF [issues Severe Thunderstorm Warning](#) for Pecos [TX] till 8:00 PM CST

(7:05:25 PM) nwsbot: MAF [issues TSTM WND GUST OF M64.00 MPH](#) at 06:56 PM CST --

(7:05:59 PM) NWS IMET Granbury - Greg left the room.

(7:15:47 PM) seagravesem1 [em-keith.lambert@nwschat.weather.gov/1f8e02cd] entered the room.

19 people in room

- nwsbot
- NWS Midland 10
- NWS Midland 21 Cody
- NWS Midland 78
- NWS Midland WCM - Pat
- DAMON-KAMC
- EddyEM1-Joel Arnwine
- EddyEm2-skywarn.coordinator
- klbk-troy
- klbk-weather
- NW9WX-Tom
- NW9WX-Tom-Home
- NWS Lubbock MIC
- NWS Lubbock Short Term
- nwsstj-comms
- nwsstj-longterm
- nwsstj-shortterm
- seagravesem1
- skywarn-clint.lannom

Font Insert Smile!

Buddy List

Buddies Accounts Tools Help

Chatrooms

mafchat

mafskywarn

NWSChat Admin Team (4/7)

Midland Chat Group

- EddyEM1-Joel.Arnwine  
I'm not here right now
- EddyEM2-Skywarn.Coordinator
- kmid-trent.magill  
I'm not here right now
- KWES-Matt.Engelbrecht  
I'm not here right now
- KWES-Tom.Tefertiller
- regionalskywarn-clint.lannom
- Seagraves EM1  
I'm not here right now

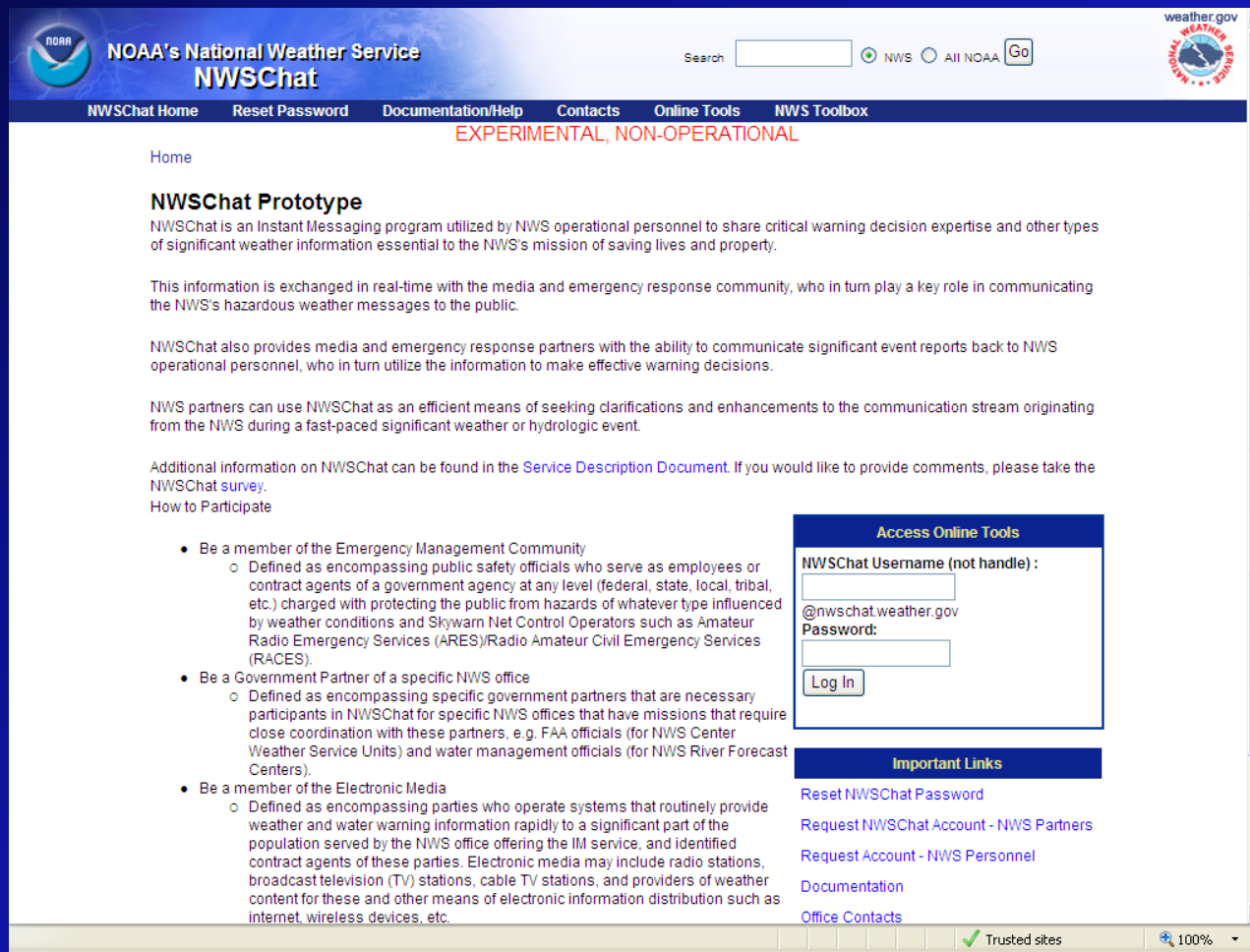
WDTB Group (2/21)

SR WCM Group (1/26)

Away

# How do I sign-up for NWSChat?

- First, go to <https://nwschat.weather.gov>



NOAA's National Weather Service  
**NWSChat**

Search  ☒ NWS ☐ All NOAA

[NWSChat Home](#) [Reset Password](#) [Documentation/Help](#) [Contacts](#) [Online Tools](#) [NWS Toolbox](#)

**EXPERIMENTAL, NON-OPERATIONAL**

Home

### NWSChat Prototype

NWSChat is an Instant Messaging program utilized by NWS operational personnel to share critical warning decision expertise and other types of significant weather information essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property.

This information is exchanged in real-time with the media and emergency response community, who in turn play a key role in communicating the NWS's hazardous weather messages to the public.

NWSChat also provides media and emergency response partners with the ability to communicate significant event reports back to NWS operational personnel, who in turn utilize the information to make effective warning decisions.

NWS partners can use NWSChat as an efficient means of seeking clarifications and enhancements to the communication stream originating from the NWS during a fast-paced significant weather or hydrologic event.

Additional information on NWSChat can be found in the [Service Description Document](#). If you would like to provide comments, please take the NWSChat [survey](#).

How to Participate

- Be a member of the Emergency Management Community
  - Defined as encompassing public safety officials who serve as employees or contract agents of a government agency at any level (federal, state, local, tribal, etc.) charged with protecting the public from hazards of whatever type influenced by weather conditions and Skywarn Net Control Operators such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES).
- Be a Government Partner of a specific NWS office
  - Defined as encompassing specific government partners that are necessary participants in NWSChat for specific NWS offices that have missions that require close coordination with these partners, e.g. FAA officials (for NWS Center Weather Service Units) and water management officials (for NWS River Forecast Centers).
- Be a member of the Electronic Media
  - Defined as encompassing parties who operate systems that routinely provide weather and water warning information rapidly to a significant part of the population served by the NWS office offering the IM service, and identified contract agents of these parties. Electronic media may include radio stations, broadcast television (TV) stations, cable TV stations, and providers of weather content for these and other means of electronic information distribution such as internet, wireless devices, etc.

#### Access Online Tools

NWSChat Username (not handle) :

@nwschat.weather.gov

Password:

#### Important Links

[Reset NWSChat Password](#)

[Request NWSChat Account - NWS Partners](#)

[Request Account - NWS Personnel](#)

[Documentation](#)

[Office Contacts](#)

Trusted sites 100%





EXPERIMENTAL, NON-OPERATIONAL

[Home](#)

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[Documentation](#)



EXPERIMENTAL, NON-OPERATIONAL

Home > Request National Weather Service Chat Account

In order to use the chat server, you need to have a NWSChat Account. Please fill out the following form to create the account.

### 1. Agree to Terms

☐ I have read and agree to the [terms of use](#).

### 2. Requested NWSChat Username (must be lowercase!)

This is your username you will use to log into the chat server. This username is much like an email address, so the same formatting rules apply (no spaces, special characters, etc. and nothing greater than 24 characters)

Option 1: Fill out this form to generate my NWSChat username.

Prefix / Affiliation:

Academia

First Name:

Middle Initial (optional): Last Name:

Option 2: If you believe the above format does not apply, please email the [nwschatadmin@noaa.gov](mailto:nwschatadmin@noaa.gov) team and explicitly state your NWSChat Username preference.

### 3. Alias on Account

This is the 'alias' that your account will appear to others in their Buddy List. You should enter something descriptive of you and your organization. (Nothing greater than 36 characters)

- Include your call letters, if you are media (Ex: kxyz-chief.meteorologist)
- Include your geography, if you are an ema (Ex: fulton-ga-ema-lastname)
- Include your agency and office, if you are government (Ex: faa-memphis-lastname)

### 4. Contact Email Address

We may need to contact you with project news or announcements. Your email address will not be shared with anyone outside of this project

Next, fill out  
this form

Select "Midland (MAF)" here

☐ Charleston (RLX)

☐ Marquette (MQT)

**Minnesota:**

☐ Duluth (DLH)

☐ Minneapolis (MPX)

**Missouri:**

☐ Pleasant Hill (EAX)

☐ Saint Louis (LSX)

☐ Springfield (SGF)

**Nebraska:**

☐ Hastings (GID)

☐ North Platte (LBF)

☐ Omaha (OAX)

**North Dakota:**

☐ Bismarck (BIS)

☐ Grand Forks (FGF)

**South Dakota:**

☐ Aberdeen (ABR)

☐ Sioux Falls (FSD)

☐ Rapid City (UNR)

**Wisconsin:**

☐ Green Bay (GRB)

☐ LaCrosse (ARX)

☐ Milwaukee (MKX)

**Wyoming:**

☐ Cheyenne (CYS)

☐ Riverton (RIW)

☐ Norman (OUN)

☐ Tulsa (TSA)

**Tennessee:**

☐ Memphis (MEG)

☐ Nashville (OHX)

☐ Knoxville (MRX)

**Texas:**

☐ Amarillo (AMA)

☐ Brownsville

(BRO)

☐ Corpus Christi  
(CRP)

☐ El Paso (EPZ)

☐ Fort Worth (FWD)

☐ Lubbock (LUB)

☐ Houston (HGX)

☐ Midland (MAF)

☐ San Angelo (SJT)

☐ San Antonio  
(EWX)

☐ Salt Lake City (SLC)

**Washington:**

☐ Seattle (SEW)

☐ Spokane (OTX)

Create Account

Reset

Click here once complete.

# How do I sign-up for NWSChat?

- We will see you signed up and accept your request.
- You will receive two emails from us. The last email has a link to **required training**.
- **The training takes 2-3 minutes to complete.**

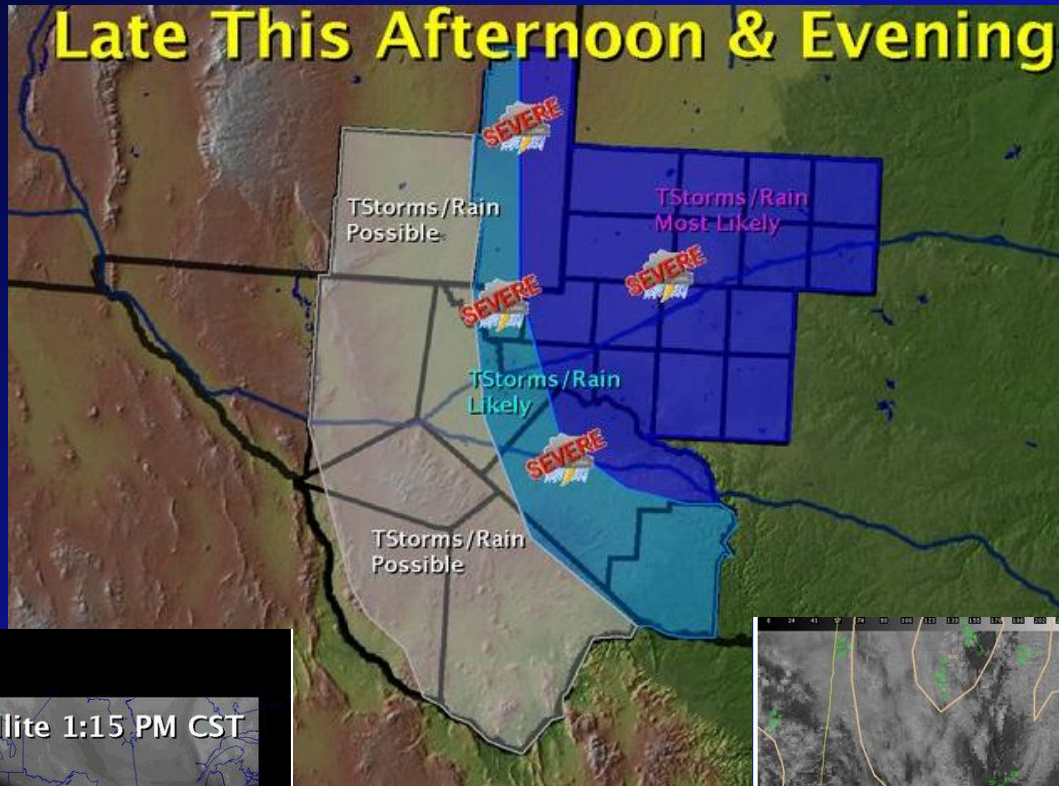
# How do I sign-up for NWSChat?

- Finally, we will call you and talk you through the remainder of the setup – download of the software.
- Total setup time – 10-15 minutes

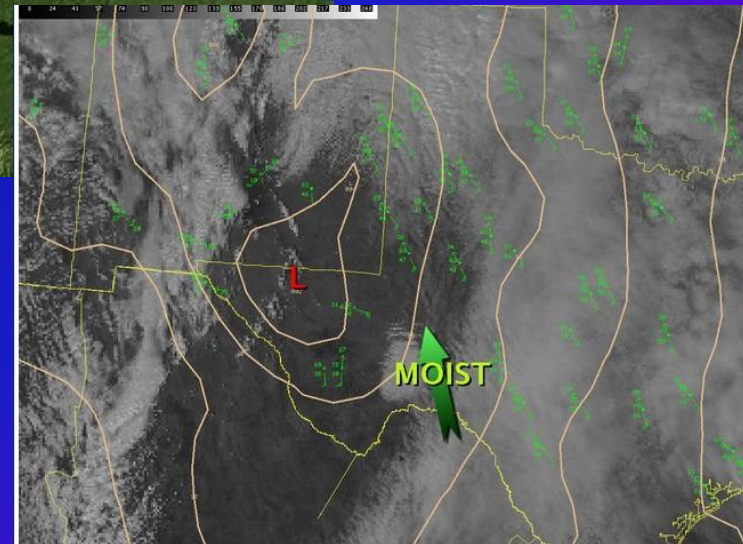
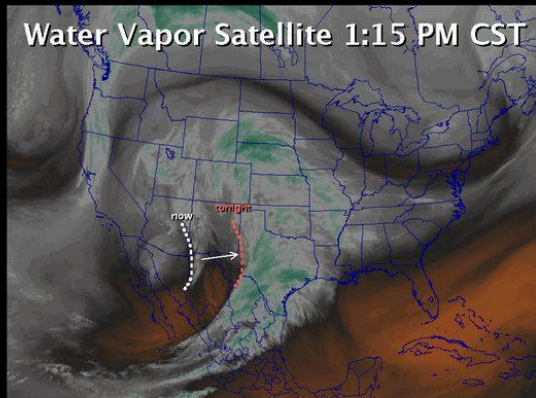


# Weather.gov/Midland

Late This Afternoon & Evening



Water Vapor Satellite 1:15 PM CST





# Weather.gov/Midland



NWS Midland/Odessa Hydrology

**National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office**  
**Midland/Odessa**

☒ Temperature (°F)    ☒ Surface Wind **mph**    ☒ Thunder  
☒ Dewpoint (°F)    ☒ Sky Coverage    ☒ Rain  
☒ Heat Index (°F)    ☒ Precipitation Potential    ☐ Mixing Height (x100ft)  
☒ Relative Humidity    ☐ Lightning Activity Level  
☐ Transport Wind **mph**    ☐ 20ft Wind **mph**    ☐ Vent Rate (x1000 kt-ft)

48-Hour Period Starting: **11am Sun, May 3**

Date	05/03	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Hour (CDT)	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	
Temperature (°F)	78	82	84	87	90	93	95	96	94	92	88	84	81	76	72	67	64	62	59	56	54	55	61	70	
Dewpoint (°F)	36	36	36	36	35	35	34	33	33	33	33	33	34	34	34	35	35	35	35	35	35	36	37	39	
Heat Index (°F)	7	8	8	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	9	10	13	14	15	15	14	13	
Wind (mph)	7	8	8	8	8	7	7	6	6	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	9	10	13	14	15	15	14	13	
Wind Dir	W	NW	NW	NW	NW	NNW	NNW	N	N	N	N	NNE	NE	ENE	ENE	E	E	ENE	ENE	ENE	NE	ENE	E	E	
Gust																					18	20	20	18	
Sky Cover (%)	23	23	24	24	24	22	22	22	22	21	21	21	24	24	24	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	
Pcpn. Potential (%)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	
Rel. Humidity (%)	21	19	18	16	15	13	12	11	12	12	14	16	19	22	25	30	34	36	40	46	49	49	41	32	
Thunder	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Rain	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

**05/04**  
 Date: 05/04  
 Hour (CDT): 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10  
 Temperature (°F): 76 72 67 64 62 59 56 54 55 61 70  
 Dewpoint (°F): 34 34 34 35 35 35 35 35 36 37 39  
 Heat Index (°F): 6 6 7 9 10 13 14 15 15 14 13  
 Wind (mph): 6 6 7 9 10 13 14 15 15 14 13  
 Wind Dir: E ENE ENE E E ENE ENE ENE NE NE ENE E E  
 Gust: 18 20 20 18  
 Sky Cover (%): 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26 26  
 Pcpn. Potential (%): 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 5  
 Rel. Humidity (%): 12 12 14 16 19 22 25 30 34 36 40  
 Thunder: -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --  
 Rain: -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- -- --

**05/05**  
 Date: 05/05  
 Hour (CDT): 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10  
 Temperature (°F): 76 80 83 87 90 94 96 98 97 95 91 88 85 82 78 74 72 70 68 65 63 65 70 79  
 Dewpoint (°F): 40 40 41 40 39 37 36 34 33 33 32 33 33 34 35 37 40 42 44 45 47 46 43 41  
 Heat Index (°F): 11 10 10 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 8 8 7 7 6 6 5 5 3 3 3  
 Wind (mph): 11 10 10 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 8 8 7 7 6 6 5 5 3 3 3  
 Wind Dir: ESE SE SE SE SSE SSE S S SSW SSW S S SE ESE E E E E E E E E NE N  
 Gust: 26 26 27 27 27 23 23 23 20 20 20 20 20 19 19 19 24 24 24 29 29 29 23  
 Sky Cover (%): 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4  
 Pcpn. Potential (%): 27 24 22 19 16 14 12 11 11 11 12 14 15 18 21 26 31 37 43 51 55 50 38 26  
 Rel. Humidity (%): --  
 Thunder: --  
 Rain: --

**SKYWARN**  
 Additional Info  
 Office Information  
 Coop Observers

**Important Information!!**

**Top News of the Day**

- Severe Weather Possible Saturday
- High Winds and Extreme Fire Danger Today
- 2009 Skywarn Spotter Training Sessions

**News of the Day**

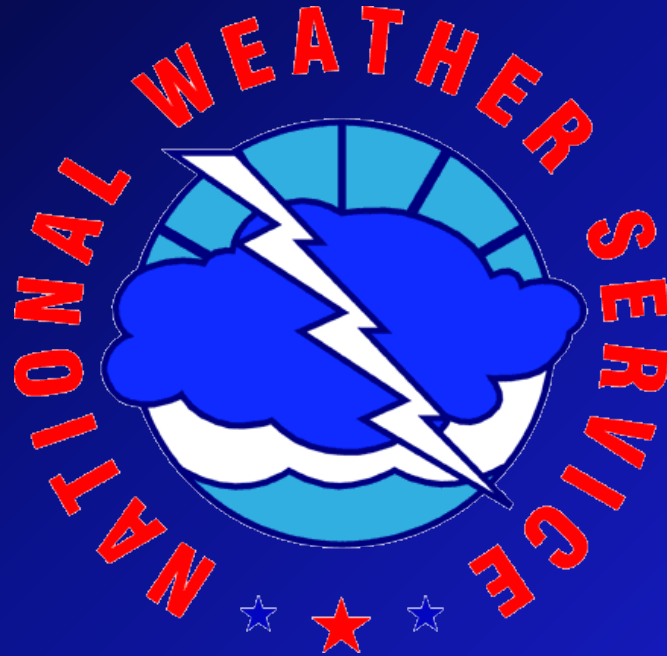
Click on the map below for the latest forecast.

[Read watches, warnings & advisories](#)  
[High Wind Warning](#)  
[Red Flag Warning](#)  
[Wind Advisory](#)  
[Blowing Dust Advisory](#)  
[Special Weather Statement](#)  
[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)  
[Short Term Forecast](#)

Last map update: Thu, Apr. 9, 2009 at 4:05:58 pm CDT

**Latest Conditions in Midland International, TX**

Apr 9  
**3:53 pm**  
 Fair and Windy  
**78°F**  
 (26°C)



**Pat Vesper**  
**Warning Coordination Meteorologist**  
**WFO Midland, Texas**  
**(432)563-5901 x223**  
**[Pat.Vesper@noaa.gov](mailto:Pat.Vesper@noaa.gov)**